



CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2019

P.O. Box 324, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427

Vol. 39, Issue 3

SPECIAL NOTE - NEW MEETING LOCATION

The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., will meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 28, 2019 in the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Va., 22514

Message from President

We have a great program planned for our July meeting. Our guest speaker will be Trish Little Taylor, who will provide information on the many resources available to perform family or other genealogical research. A brief description of her education and experience is provided below.

Trish Little Taylor - Guest Speaker



Trish was born and raised in New Jersey. She came to Virginia to attend Mary Washington College. Her desire was to be a librarian, so after graduation she went to Western Michigan University for a Masters in Librarianship. Then moved back to Virginia, spent six years as a school librarian, and later worked for the Library of Virginia. Those were the precomputer days when typing was the desired input method and research was on either using microfilm or traveling to the source. In 1978 she began at the LVA where she began a lifelong obsession with research.

She knew her grandmother, May Walters Peters, and her dad, Joseph Warren Walters, were born in Virginia. They are her only Virginians. The rest of the family comes from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Cornwall, England, and Ireland. She researched Ireland and was able to obtain Irish citizenship because William Little, her grandfather, was born there.

She moved to the area after she retired from Portsmouth Public Library. She is the president of the Fredericksburg Regional Genealogical Society (FRGS) and she moderates the Irish SIG, and she organized the 2018 fall conference. She is a member of the National Genealogical Society, GRIVA. Trish has lectured on newspapers, Irish records, and basic genealogical research. She had organized workshops and presented at library conferences.

Family research, where do you start? You have watched the advertisements for Ancestry and for the various DNA companies, and now you are confused. You know that your grandfather was living in Caroline County in 1870, but you can't find him. What is the difference between Ancestry and G+Familysearch.org? Which will help me? When should I go to the library or archives? What do I do there? Trish's presentation will provide a variety of research methods to locate those missing ancestors and how to fill in some of the gaps. Don't miss this informative meeting.

Writing with History

When I was about five years old my fascination with fountain pens began. Kate, my Mom's sister, who lived about two hours from us in North Carolina, would allow me to write with her Sheaffer's vacuum-fill "Balance" fountain pen. There were rules: (1) do not fill the pen (she didn't want spilled ink), (2) dip the nib in the small reservoir at the top of the Scrip Ink bottle – the bottle



was secured so it wouldn't tip over, (3) the pen could not leave the desk area of the antique secretary where it was kept. My parents had fountain pens; however, they were secured where I was not allowed access. "Forbidden fruit" made the access to my Aunt Kate's Sheaffer's even more tempting. I still have my Aunt Kate's Sheaffer's Balance and two Parkers, a Duofold Junior and a Parker 51 Vac, that belonged to my parents. Among my collection of treasured pens is my

paternal grandfather's Waterman's No. 7 in red-ripple hard rubber which I found just recently in a packet of letters I had written to him when I was in Vietnam in 1965.

The magazine ads in LIFE, COLLIERS, and THE SATURDAY EVENING POST for fountain pens made by Sheaffer's, Parker, and other brands illustrated colorful celluloid fountain pens with various filling systems that enabled the pens to hold an internal ink supply. As I got older, the old Sheaffer's Balance that belonged to Kate with the vacuum filling system had lost its ability to create a vacuum and it would not fill. The magazine descriptions of the filling systems – some lever actuated, some piston fill – were of great interest to me.

The advent of television brought ads for these fountain pens into our living room in the early fifties. In about 1952, Sheaffer's introduced the snorkel filling fountain pen. Those TV ads showed a person extending the snorkel from beneath the nib of the pen so the nib did not have to be immersed in the ink to fill the pen! I was "hooked" – had to have one of them! They were expensive – \$5.00 and more – and the model with the Triumph nib was over \$10.00! More than my meager allowance could afford.

In public school we had to learn to use a fountain pen. The lever-fill pens made by Esterbrook and Wahl were \$2.00 or less, and there were loaner pens provided by the school for those children who didn't have access to a fountain pen. A fountain pen used properly enhances one's penmanship – but the ballpoint pen eventually took over the market – no need for an inkwell on the student desk, and less chance for the inevitable ink spills.

As a high school graduation gift, I received a Sheaffer's Snorkel Pen from my Aunt Kate. Like most things that have moving parts it became necessary to service the pen on occasion – repair service was offered by most jewelry or office supply stores – but the cost of repair was eventually prohibitive. I learned to service my own fountain pen and thus a hobby was born!

Later on, I found that many other fountain pens were being "tossed" because they no longer worked – and their owners had begun using ballpoint pens. You could find bags of fountain pens in junk stores or flea markets for a dollar or less. It was easy to acquire dozens or more fountain pens – Waterman's, Parker, Sheaffer's, Wahl-Eversharp, Conklin – and other U. S. manufacturers.

Many of these fountain pen makers were no longer in business – and it was easy by trial and error to learn how the various pens worked – and with many of the same model, replacing damaged parts was easy for the person interested in a working vintage pen.

After World War II, many servicemen brought back fountain pens from European manufacturers – with millions of men in uniform it's easy to see how eventually there were millions of working and nonworking pens manufactured by Montblanc, Pelikan, Conway-Stewart, DuPont, were available for a few dollars. Pens from Japan were also being brought back to America by returning servicemen: Sailor, Pilot-Namiki, etc. Many of the Japanese vintage pens were filled with an eyedropper, and I regret not acquiring some of these urishi lacquer-coated and elaborately decorated pens when I was in Japan during my Navy deployments in the sixties. As these pens were showing up in flea markets after they were disposed of by their owners – it was natural that someone interested in pens could find these more exotic makes.



Not many of my friends were aware of my interest in fountain pens until I was over 40 – it was sort of a “geeky” hobby. In the late 70s I was shopping with my wife, Betty (who loves antique stores and flea markets) – I saw a small kiosk in the antique mall – it was closed, however through the glass window I saw a particular Parker Oversized Vacumatic fountain pen in a color that was of interest. I took the kiosk owner's card and called her the following week. She agreed to meet me at the antique mall to look at the pen she had for sale. I purchased the pen, and the owner asked me if I was a member of “PCA?” I asked, “What is PCA?” She replied, “Pen Collectors of America.” Until then, I was unaware there were other fountain-pen collectors! She told me of an upcoming Fountain Pen Show that would occur in Arlington, VA (Crystal City) in a few months. I put the date on my calendar and planned to go.

When I arrived at the hotel in Arlington, I discovered a large ballroom in the hotel with over 200 tables of pen collectors from all over America, Japan, China, Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina,



United Kingdom, Germany, and France! There were collectively tens of thousands of vintage pens – many fully restored – along with thousands of modern fountain pens from all over the world! I now attend two or three pen shows each year – there are pen shows in: northern Virginia, New York, Chicago, Columbus, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas, Atlanta, Miami,

Philadelphia, Raleigh, and Boston – throughout the year. There are also pen shows in: London, Madrid, Rome, Brussels and other major cities in Europe.

Among my permanent collection of several hundred vintage and modern fountain pens are Sheaffer's, Parker, Wahl-Eversharp, Conklin, Esterbrook, Montblanc, Pelikan, Namiki, Sailor, and Waterman's. I do most of my own repair and restoration; however other collectors that have greater expertise than me are often called upon for specialized repair of unusual or rare fountain pens. I write almost exclusively with a fountain pen – but I call upon ballpoint or roller ball pens for some paper or forms that are either not “fountain pen friendly” or have carbon or no carbon required (NCR) for duplicates.

I buy, sell, and trade fountain pens at the pen shows I attend and occasionally, to a collector with whom I am familiar. Fountain pens in unrestored condition can still be found on occasion in a flea market, however they are frequently priced well above their true value as the repair takes many hours and parts are quite scarce. Occasionally my friends and relatives give me pens that belonged to their parents they wish to have repaired or a gift to my collection. Vintage and modern fountain pens can also be found on Internet sites like eBay – buyer beware! There are a number of vendors that attend pen shows that specialize in fountain pen parts – on occasion I am able to find a missing cap, barrel, section, or nib for a pen that needs restoration. I am also interested in buying vintage fountain pens or parts in the interest of pursuing the recycling and preservation of beautiful vintage fountain pens.



The unanticipated bonus of this hobby is the collection of friends – men and women from all walks of life, from all over the world that I would not have met but for our interest in collecting fountain pens. *Jim Day, Bowling Green, VA*

About One Hundred Years Ago

In 1917, the following military installations in Virginia surrounding Caroline County were established: Fort Belvoir, Fort Lee, Langley Air Force Base, Norfolk Naval Station, and Quantico Marine Base.

In 1918, World War I ended and the following additional military installations in Virginia were established: Dahlgren, Fort Eustis, and the Naval Weapons Station at Yorktown.

In 1918 and 1919, the Spanish Flu spread as troops returned home after World War I. Millions of people died around the world including citizens in Caroline County. My uncle, John Robley Collins, was ill with the Spanish Flu under the care of a bedside nurse and doctor when he died in Bowling Green on January 8, 1919, at age 47. He had served as a clerk in his father's store at Ideal, and he owned and operated the grist mill at Reedy Mill Pond, and he had been the assistant post-master in Bowling Green.

In 1919, the first issue of the Caroline Progress weekly paper was published. It competed through the years of radio, TV, and the Internet for not quite one hundred years as it ceased publication in March 2018. *Bernard Collins / Jan 2019*

Moment in History: During the Revolutionary War, Caroline County's white population was just under 9,000 and 1,250 men served in the military during that time.

Caroline Going West

The Caroline Historical Society often receives genealogy questions from people on a relative they said lived one time in Caroline County. The land area of Caroline is large, and many people moved to the west. Many went to West Virginia and Kentucky which were part of Virginia at one time. This area of Virginia was settled early. John Smith made a trip to Caroline lands after arriving at Jamestown in 1607.

Many who lived on the land in Caroline now may have lived on land in King William, King and Queen, or Essex County until the land was cut off these counties and Caroline County was formed in 1727. If they lived there before 1727, the search for marriage records, deeds, or wills may start at the court houses in those three counties.

Some people may have moved in small groups or left with wagon trains. One wagon train of 80 white citizens and 120 slaves left the Sparta area in 1854. It had covered wagons and oxcarts. Many of the group had been members of Mount Calvary Church at Sparta and Salem Church at Alps. A few years after the wagon train left, the remaining members combined in one Church-Salem Baptist at Sparta.

The wagon train was led by Andrew Broaddus, a nephew of the pastor, Andrew Broaddus I. He had been a prominent member of the church and was a lawyer and had served in the Virginia House of Delegates. He led this caravan to settle in Caldwell Texas, and form Salem Church. Broaddus served in the Texas legislature, became a Texas District Judge, and was recognized with a Texas historical marker at Cooks Point, Texas.

Why did they leave Sparta six years before the Civil War? The farmland may have become less fertile before the practices we have today with no-till farming, cover crops, commercial fertilizers and practices that reduce land erosion. Maybe they hoped to increase their land holdings as homesteaders. The travel through the mountains, over poor roads, and across rivers including the Mississippi, in all kinds of weather was a real challenge. I thought of this when I drove over I-40 from Virginia to Oklahoma.

In 1836, Lawyer Thomas Bell sold Mordecai Houston 137 acers that bordered Selph Lane and Collins Mill Pond in Caroline County. Mordecai Houston went with the wagon train to Texas in 1854. After his death, some of his children living in Burleston County Texas had to be contacted to sell this property in 1858 as shown in Deed Book 51, page 191 in the Caroline Court.

In the 1990s, descendants from the families who went to Texas returned to a Homecoming at Salem Baptist Church. They were able to visit and talk with people in the Sparta area. They were also able to see the church grounds and buildings, including the stained-glass window to honor Andrew Broaddus I, Andrew Broaddus II, and Andrew Broaddus III, who served 106 years from 1820 until 1926 as the pastors at Salem.

You can find the history of Salem Baptist Church at Sparta on SalemBaptist.org.
Bernard Collins/ Feb 2019

Buy a Brick – Honor a Veteran

The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10295 are sponsoring a Memorial Brick program whereby individuals can purchase a brick to honor a veteran



or current servicemember of the United States Armed Forces. The brick will be placed around the base of the Veterans' Memorial Clock on the County Courthouse lawn in Bowling Green, Virginia. The cost of inscribing a brick and having it installed is only \$100.

Application forms are available at the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., 121 Main Street, Bowling Green, VA 22427, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or may be printed from our Web site www.carolinehistoricalsociety.org



"Sample" Memorial Brick

New CHS Member: John and Susan Smith, Bowling Green, VA.

New Life Member: Larry D. Brimner, Arizona.

Refreshments for Meeting: If anyone would like to bring something for refreshment time, such as cookies, brownies, snacks, soft drinks, water, etc., see contact information below.

Dates to Remember

July 28, 2019 – CHS Membership Meeting, 3 p.m., Caroline Community Services Building.

October 27, 2019 – CHS Membership Meeting, 3 p.m., Caroline Community Services Building.

Caroline Historical Society, Inc., General Contact Information

R. Wayne Brooks, President—wbrooks@bealenet.com Cell Phone (804) 513-9069

Facebook—Caroline Historical Society, Bowling Green, Va.

Web site—www.carolinehistoricalsociety.org

Location—Sidney E. King Arts Center, 121 Main St., Bowling Green, VA 22427

Mailing Address—P.O. Box 324, Bowling Green, VA 22427-0324

Hours of Operation—Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Special tours by request